
**MINUTES FOR ENDOCRINE SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

MELBOURNE CONVENTION CENTRE

**TUESDAY 26th August 2014
5.00-6.00pm**

Attendance:

Shane Hamblin, Duncan Topliss, Kathy Gatford, Jock Findlay, Brian Hirschfeld, Brendan Waddell, Shaun McGrath, Peter Ebeling, Tim Cole, Helena Teede, Santo Greco, Belinda Henry, Craig Harrison, Mark Cooper, Jeffrey Zajac, Bu Yeap, Leon Bach, Mathis Grossmann, Tamara Varive, David Torpy, Michael Boden, Judith Clement, Sabashini Ramchand, Dennis Engler, David Handlesman, Ashim Sinha, Ken Ho, Morton Burt, Christine Clarke, Gail Risbridger, Warrick Inder, Nicollette Hodyl, Chen Chen, Bu Yeap

1. Apologies

Vicky Clifton, Ben Canny, Peter Fuller, Walter Phlewe, Ann McCormack

2. Confirmation of Minutes – 27th August 2013, Sydney Convention Centre

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting that was held on 27th August 2013 were accepted as a true and accurate record. Proposed by Duncan Topliss and seconded by Leon Bach.

3. Business Arising

4. President's Report

The ESA Council has had a very busy past 12 months and there has been much progress on all fronts:

New ESA logo and website:

A new ESA logo has been developed, while the ESA website has been completely remodeled to incorporate the new Society identity represented by the new ESA logo. As well as a new look, greater functionality has also been incorporated. "Find an endocrinologist" is one such example whereby endocrinologists can add their name if they would like to be contacted via the ESA website for patient referrals in specific sub-disciplines of endocrinology.

Successful Scientific Meetings:

The ESA Annual Scientific Meeting at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre from August 24-27, 2014 attracted 706 registrant thanks to the outstanding programme developed by Associate Professor Ann McCormack and her team. Professor Sundeep Khosla from the Mayo Clinic and Foundation delivered the Harrison Lecture, entitled "Sex steroids, bone and fat in men: the key role of estrogen", while Professor John Wass from the University of Oxford presented the Taft Lecture "Translational and clinical science in the optimum management of pituitary tumours". Professor Benita Katzenellenbogen, from University of Illinois and College of Medicine, presented her work on "Estrogen receptor signaling networks", Kevin Grove delivered a plenary on "Programming metabolic and psychiatric diseases: Effects of poor maternal diet and health", and Adrian Clark, from St. George's University of London, on "Dissecting the genetic basis of inherited adrenocortical failure".

The ESA Seminar Meeting in May 2014, Hobart, Tasmania on the theme of adrenocortical disease had 280 attendees.

The ESA Clinical Weekend in August 2014, Torquay, Victoria had 294 attendees. The two winners will be fast-tracked for submission for publication as case reports in Clinical Endocrinology (Oxford).

Successful Finances:

ESA assets are now in a very healthy state with \$2.102 million (the Wynn Research Fund contains \$587,000).

ESA now awards one ESA Research Fellowship, one ESA Research Scholarship, and one Wynn Research Grant-in-Aid (each of one year duration). As a result of our healthy finances, ESA Council now proposes two *new* ESA grants: one ESA/RACP Fellowship; and one ESA Research Scholarship (each of one year duration).

RACP Alliances:

The HWA endocrinology workforce data are inaccurate as they lack ambulatory setting projections. We plan to liaise with the RACP and State Governments to increase the number of AT positions in Endocrinology. For example, in Victoria, NSW, SA and Queensland in 2014, 175 BPTs applied for 38 APT positions in endocrinology (a ratio of ~4.5 to 1).

International Outreach:

- Journal of Clinical Endocrinology (Oxford) Editorial Board – PR Ebeling, S Judd (Editors), and H Teede, W Inder, F Cameron, C Rodda
- Wiley CEN Educational Modules – S Judd
- Journal of Endocrinology – Bioscientifica (Evan Simpson)
- Journal of Molecular Endocrinology – Bioscientifica (Evan Simpson)
- EBM Case Reports – Bioscientifica (Jerry Greenfield, Warrick Inder)
- US Endocrine Society – Prof Gail Risbridger
- ICE/ENDO 2014 Meeting AMSC - Prof Peter R Ebeling, A/Prof Kristy Brown
- US Endocrine Society ENDO Meeting AMSC 2015-2018 - Prof Peter R Ebeling
- ISE Scientific Council - Prof Leon Bach
- Bone Reports – PR Ebeling (Editor-in-Chief)

ESA Task Forces:

1. Update on ESA Guideline on Androgen Replacement Therapy

Prof David de Kretser AC (Chair)

Members: D Handelsman, BB Yeap, J Zajac, R McLachlan, D Lording, M Grossmann, G Wittert, B Stuckey, A Conway

2. ESA Working Group on Endocrine Disrupters

Call for action and nominees to be aligned with this important international US Endocrine Society initiative

If interested, please contact me by email: peter.ebeling@monash.edu

4.1 Motion

Election of new Honorary Life Member on the recommendation of Council

Professor Ken Ho

Professor Jock Findlay

Approval of new Honorary Life Members was CARRIED by members.

5. Treasurer's Report

5.1 Audited Accounts

Income from membership subscriptions increased significantly by 117% from \$67,324 to \$ 146,407. This was predominantly due to ESA sending out arrears notices for members who had not kept up to date with the annual payments. It was made clear that failure to pay this year's membership fee and payments in arrears would result in termination of membership as per the Society's constitution. A small number of people declined to pay the arrears and decided to forego their membership. Proceeds from meetings were similar to 2012-2013.

The funds managed by Asgard have returned a net increase in value for the financial year from \$808,577.76 (July 1st, 2013) to 910,303.46 (June 30 2014). As of August 18, 2013, there has been a further increase in value to \$921,431.76. Funds from the Wynne estate have been invested in a separate account with Asgard. This is structured more conservatively at 30% cash/fixed interest and 70% growth assets, but has also increased significantly in value from \$533,602.71 on July 1 2013 to 579,438.47 on June 30 2014. As of August 18 2014, the value of this investment is \$586,798.59. Our aim for this account is to make at least a 5% return on this investment annually which will fund a

\$25,000 scholarship annually without encroaching on the principal. In the last financial year we had a return of 9.7%.

Accounts held at the National Australia Bank include a working account balance (as of August 18, 2014) of \$188,223. We hold an additional two term deposits, combined value of \$272,309.

Expenditure was higher in 2013-4 compared to the previous financial year by 8.8%. Meeting costs were up by 6.2%, but award costs higher. In the audited accounts, the \$27,000 noted as cost of the QEG meeting was balanced by income of the same amount – ESA acted as the receiver of sponsorship funds for the QEG group and passed this on directly (income under Award sponsorship). Secretariat costs fell in the last financial year. This was the first year we paid full rent to the RACP for premises, shared with ADS and ANZBMS.

Award expenses were reduced in 2013-4 despite offering 3 research awards. One successful candidate deferred the award until September 2014, while the administering institution of one awardee has yet to provide ESA with an invoice. These costs will clearly be deferred to the next financial year, so anticipate a substantial rise in award expenditure appearing on next year's statements.

Recommendations from the recent Finance sub-committee meeting are to consider offering an additional Research scholarship for 2015. This will be discussed at Council. Applications are likely to close on October 31st 2014 – details to follow.

The ESA / APEG proposal to the PBAC regarding the funding of growth hormone for adults with proven GH deficiency has undergone a full independent review. There are significant obstacles with respect to quality of the data in the literature which may limit the likelihood of a successful application. A cost-effectiveness analysis has been performed but the details of this have not been made available to the Committee members as it has been kept confidential by the Pharmaceutical companies. A meeting with the relevant Pharmaceutical companies has been arranged for Tuesday August 26th. A total of \$1980 was spent by ESA in the last financial year towards this.

We have also entered into an agreement with Wiley Blackwell Publishers, whereby Clinical Endocrinology is the official clinical journal publication of the society, until December 31st 2014, thereafter renewable every 3 years. This is at a cost of £12,000 per annum, and provides free access to all journal articles for ESA members. This is accessible by logging in through the ESA website. To date, ESA has not been invoiced.

Overall therefore the Society posted a net profit of \$103,370, compared to the operating profit of \$26,580 in 2012-13 (total profit minus Wynne bequest). Our total net assets have increased from \$1,858,300 to \$2,102,334.

I would like to thank the Endocrine Society of Australia, particularly the Council members and the two presidents I have served as treasurer over the last 4 years, Vicki Clifton and Peter Ebeling for their support. I would like to offer special thanks to Ivone Johnson. She has been just wonderful in her role and it has been a pleasure to work with her. It has been a privilege to be an office bearer in the Society, and I was fortunate to have the position of treasurer during a period of economic recovery where we have substantially increased our financial base. Good luck to the incoming treasurer.

Approval for the Audited accounts was CARRIED by members.

6. Medical Affairs Committee Report

Increasing demands on ESA noted

Roles include

- To develop positions statements
- Reports to government, PBAC/ TGA requests for advice
- Both national and international requests
- Need to respond to issues of day- engage with other societies/ media etc

Strategies to optimise ability to respond – data capture of the current activities

- joint member, Ashim Sinha as liaison between the Societies.

- council has co-opted John Walsh and Leon Bach to the committee.

A new strategic initiative was commenced with the US Endocrine Society Hormone Health Network focused on adaptation and provision of resources for consumers and increasingly for health professionals. To be launched at the 2014 meeting.

7. Report on 2014 ESA Meetings • Seminars • Clinical weekend • ASM

ASM

The 2014 ESA Annual Scientific Meeting will take place at the Melbourne Convention Centre between 24th-27th August. Registration numbers look to be near record level, with 564 registered delegates as at 16th July, 2014 compared with 492 at the same time in 2013. This year there are 4 highly distinguished ESA Plenary speakers. Professor Sundeep Khosla (USA) will deliver the Harrison Plenary lecture entitled "Sex steroids, bones and fat in men: the key role of oestrogen". Professor John Wass (UK), will give the Taft Plenary lecture "Informing clinical practice: translational and clinical science in the optimum management of pituitary tumours". Professor Benita Katzenellenbogen (USA) will give a plenary lecture "Oestrogen Receptor Integrative Genomics and Signaling Networks in Breast Cancer and Endocrine Resistance" and Professor Kevin Grove (USA) will highlight his recent research in foetal programming and the brain in relation to metabolic outcomes. In addition, the ESA/ADS plenary will be given by Professor Adrian Clark on "Familial glucocorticoid deficiency".

This year's ESA Senior Plenary was awarded to Professor Iain Clarke, the mid career award to Kevin Pfigler and the Servier Award to Anthony Bird. In addition to the annual ESA Novartis Junior Scientist Award and ESA Bryan Hudson Clinical Endocrinology Award, this year we have been able to award 3 book prizes to the highest scoring posters made possible by sponsorship by the Therapeutic Guidelines.

Other highlights at the 2014 meeting, include international speakers Anna Blasiak (Poland) participating in the joint ESA/Neuroendocrinology Australasia symposium. Symposia themes include "The fat spectrum", "Neuroendocrinology and Reproduction" and "An Update in Neuroendocrine Tumours".

For the attention of the ESA Council, the only potential concern seen by the POC this year was that there was a dramatic increase in the number of clinical abstract submissions and a reduction in the number of basic science abstract submissions. Whether this represents a new trend in activity amongst ESA members remains to be seen in future years.

Planning is also underway for the 2015 ESA ASM to be held in Adelaide from 23rd-26th August.

Ann McCormack, Chair POC

ESA Clinical Weekend, Torquay, 22-24 August 2014

There was very strong interest in the Clinical Weekend this year, with 60 cases submitted by advanced trainees from around Australia and New Zealand (12 chosen). Delegate registrations were on track to exceed forecasts. As a result it is anticipated that the meeting financial results will be in line with budget projections despite the loss this year of the financial support of a major pharmaceutical sponsor. I would like to thank all the advanced trainee presenters and our keynote speakers, Prof John Wass and Prof Sundeep Khosla for their contributions to the meeting. I also thank the members of the LOC for their generous assistance in organising the meeting, especially in assessing all the cases: Deepak Dutta, Vivian Grill, Kathryn Hackman and Rosemary Wong. The outstanding organisational efforts of Danielle White and Kristie McHutchison of ASN is also gratefully acknowledged.

Shane Hamblin, Chair LOC

ESA Seminar Weekend, May 2-4, 2014, Grand Chancellor Hotel, Hobart

Clinical Theme: Adrenal Disease

Basic Science Theme: Steroid Action: Biology and Clinical Disease

Overall attendance at the Seminar Weekend was excellent with 280 registrants, 240 of which attended the clinical stream. The Basic Science attendees were somewhat reduced this year and strategies to increase attendees will be discussed at Council meeting at the Annual Scientific Meeting.

Both the clinical and basic science programs were considered outstanding. Prof William Young Jr (Mayo Clinic College of Medicine) attended the clinical seminar weekend and provided invaluable input into the program. Prof Young was involved in the panel discussion detailing primary aldosteronism, the adrenal master class and he delivered a joint lecture with the basic scientists on pheochromocytoma.

In addition, we thank our local plenary speakers who provided excellent lectures to both the clinical and basic science streams. This includes:

A/Prof Vicki Clifton (University of Adelaide): Glucocorticoid receptor signalling and pregnancy

A sense of local flavour was provided by

A/Prof Greg Woods (University of Tasmania): Immune recognition and Tasmanian devil facial tumour disease.

We would also like to thank all other contributors to both the Basic Science and Clinical Programs for helping create a highly successful, thought provoking and insightful meeting.

In 2014, ESA awarded 3 ESA research snapshot travel awards at the Basic Science Seminar Weekend for attendance to the Annual Scientific Meeting in August. The travel awards were received by Sakda Hewegalamulage, Ashlee Clark and Bennet Seow.

Belinda Henry (Basic Science Chair).

Don McLeod (Clinical Chair).

8. Future Meetings

ESA Seminar Meeting 2015, 1-3 May, Novotel Manly Pacific, Sydney

ESA Clinical Weekend 2015, 21-23 August, Adelaide

ESA/SRB ASM 2015, 23-26 August, Adelaide Convention Centre

9. Other business

New ESA Council

Helena Teede-President, Warrick Inder-President-elect, Tim Cole-Honorary Secretary, Nicollette Hodyl-Treasurer, Peter Ebeling-Past President

Councillors: Bu Yeap, Chen Chen, Belinda Henry, Ashim Sinha, Morton Burt, Craig Harrison

10. Date of next meeting: Adelaide, 27th August 2015